



**COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES
MINUTES
Monday, February 9, 2009
6:00 PM**

*FIFTH FLOOR LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL,
3900 MAIN STREET, RIVERSIDE, 92522
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT, 951-826-5427*

MISSION STATEMENT

“The mission of the Commission on Disabilities is to promote greater awareness of, respect for, and the total participation of individuals with disabilities into all aspects of life.”

State law restricts the Commission on Disabilities from taking action on an item unless it has been included on an agenda and posted at least 72 hours in advance of a meeting or unless the matter falls within one of the narrow exceptions. Consequently, any item not listed on this agenda will normally have to be delayed until the item can be made part of a posted agenda.

CALL TO ORDER: 6:00 pm

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

1. Roll Call: Chairperson Debbie Keller, Paul Van Doren, Susanne Puffer, Gigi Welch, Linda Garcia, Lesley Robinson, Donald Hawecker, and Virginia Werly

Absent (excused): James Stream, Gene Brosious,

Also present were Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki, General Services Director Kris Martinez, Planning Director Ken Gutierrez, Senior Planner Doug Darnell, and ADA Coordinator Monique Gordon.

2. **Introductions and Public Comment Period** - This is the portion of the meeting specifically set aside to invite your comments regarding any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction. Individual audience participation is limited to 3 minutes.

In attendance:

- a. William Briscoe – Ramona High School
- b. Sharon Nakama – Ramona High School

The City of Riverside wishes to make all of its public meetings accessible to the public. Upon request, this agenda will be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with disabilities, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Any person with a disability who requires a modification or accommodation in order to participate in a meeting, should direct such request to the City's ADA Coordinator at (951) 826-5427 or TDD at (951) 826-5439 at least 72 hours before the meeting, if possible.

Agenda related writings or documents provided to the Commission on Disabilities are available for public inspection in the General Services Department, 3900 Main Street, Second Floor, and in the binder located inside the 5th Floor Large Conference Room while the meeting is in session.

- c. Resident John Lonberg
- d. Resident Karen Wright
- e. Donna Kirchoff, Inland Regional Center
- f. Resident Moe Moghaddam

Deputy City Attorney Neil Okazaki advised the COD that City Attorney Priamos had been asked by the League of California Cities to appear in Sacramento on February 18, 2009 to participate in a panel discussion as part of the Assembly Human Services Committee Informational Hearing on the State of Residential Facilities for People with Disabilities and Children. He was asked to participate based upon the expertise that he developed in dealing with state-licensed group homes. Depending upon what happens in Sacramento, City Attorney Priamos may provide a briefing at a future COD meeting.

Commissioner Hawecker commended that the Public Works department on their quick response to a sidewalk deficiency on Hillside Avenue. It was noted that after a phone call, the Sr. Construction Inspector responded and sidewalk installation work began very quickly.

3. Minutes for the meeting of January 12, 2009

M/S Werly/Hawecker and unanimous to approve the minutes as presented.

AYES - 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Puffer, Welch, Garcia, Robinson, Hawecker, Virginia Werly); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Stream, Brosious).

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community Outreach: Community Meeting Script Development

The information provided was noted by the COD with the understanding that as additional useful information arises, it can be added to the list.

Chairperson Keller referred to the Fire and Police Departments where it is possible to voluntarily provide registry information concerning disabilities in case of emergency. She noted that the Fire Department would accompany COD members to community members to address the disabled disaster issue. She also noted that the registries were short term and needed to be regularly updated by residents.

The COD discussed that the 311 line was also an excellent resource that can be added to the script.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Housing Element – Critical Housing Needs for the Disabled Community

Planning Director Ken Gutierrez approached the COD for input in development of the upcoming Housing Element:

- What are critical housing issues for the disabled community:
- What are some of the barriers for finding appropriate housing for disabled residents?
- What critical activities are needed?

A. The COD discussed the need for Universal Design in existing and new homes. Universal Design would allow residents who are disabled the ability to comfortably move around in and live in their homes. Universal Design includes lower counters, widening all doors, raising toilets and appropriate electrical switches. The COD discussed that as the population aged, there will be an increased need for Universally Designed homes.

- B. Transportation is another critical issue. Disabled residents need to live near affordable public transportation such as bus stops and direct routes to the metro link.
- C. The COD discussed that there had been grants and loans available for residents to modify their homes to Universal Design standards through the Riverside Housing Development Corporation and an organization know as Christmas in April. Commissioner Van Doren noted that the City of Riverside was the only local government he knew of that would allow grants for rental properties. He also noted the need for the ability to modify mobile homes; mobile homes are an affordable housing option, but the subject grants did not allow mobile home modifications. It would also be helpful if exterior modifications were also allowed.
- D. Safe, affordable housing was also an issue, especially for high density housing.
- E. Affordable housing, both apartment living and single family housing.
- F. Also important was including more than the minimum specifications for disabled mobility such as increasing the amount of disabled parking.

The COD presented Planning staff with reference material concerning Universal Design Guidelines

G. Election of Officers

M/S Lesley/Welch and unanimous to re-elect Chairperson Keller for a second term.

AYES - 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Puffer, Welch, Garcia, Robinson, Hawecker, Werly); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Stream, Brosious).

M/S Welch/Werly and unanimous to elect Linda Garcia as the new Vice-Chair.

AYES - 8 (Keller, Van Doren, Puffer, Welch, Garcia, Robinson, Hawecker, Werly); NOES – 0; ABSTAIN – 0; ABSENT – 2 (Stream, Brosious).

H. Project Update: Fairmount and Andulka Parks

The COD discussed that Andulka Park was in the final phase of construction.

The COD would like further clarification concerning the Universally Accessible Playground components that are represented in the Fairmount Park Conceptual drawing. Although it is understood that the Fairmount Conceptual drawing is not structurally accurate, the COD would like an explanation of the actual components, i.e. what is the play area material? Is there a step up to the picnic tables? How many of the COD suggestions were incorporated into the final design?

An update on the Arlington Heights Sports Complex is also requested.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Annual Board and Commission Reception - Grier Pavilion, Monday, March 23, 2009 at 5:30 pm

The Disaster Preparedness for the Disabled booklets, Red Cross Disaster Preparedness booklet and the Trashcan obstruction fliers will be the images used for the Annual Board and Commission Reception.

2. 3rd Annual Very Special Art Fair - Ramona High, April 16, 2009 from 9 am to 1 pm.

William Briscoe and Sharon Nakama, Ramona High School Teachers, came to invite the COD to this event. The Very Special Art Fair (VSAF) began in 2007 at John W. high school with participating artists with special needs. The purpose of the VSAF is to celebrate what students CAN do, and build bridges between special needs and general student populations. This year, the VSAF was awarded a \$2,000 Riverside Educational Enrichment Foundation (REEF) grant. This year the event is expecting at least 250 artists from 11 secondary schools throughout RUSD and the California School for the Deaf in Riverside. Many general education students will also be visitors of the event. The theme is "Saving Our Environment!" There will be several community organizational tables to assist in developing art, community and disABILITY awareness.

The COD will be in attendance at a boot at the VSAF3.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Report: Barrier Removal Requests in Retail Establishments (Hawecker)
2. Discussion Item: Public Service Announcement concerning Proper Placement of Trash Containers in conjunction with Public Works Solid Waste Division

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Performance Measurement from Code Enforcement concerning Sidewalk Obstruction by Trash Containers and Vehicles (standing report)

Date	Postcards Distributed by Code Enforcement
January 2008	70
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	201
May 2008	0
June 2008	40
July 2008	20
August 2008	45
September 2008	135
October 2008	113
November 2008	14
December 2008	0
January 2008	0

ADJOURNMENT: 7:35 pm